

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, June 19. 1708.

I Have been harra's'd with Reproofs and Epistolary Corrections upon my Exclamations against the People's choosing *Tories*, and foretelling the Consequences of a *Tory* Parliament; and the Reason they give for it, not to give the World the Trouble of their impertinent Scribbles, is, that we are very well assur'd, there is a very happy Election made in most Parts of *Britain*, and therefore the People, who have shewn by their Precaution, their Diligence, and Zeal, that their Eyes were open, had no Occasion for so sharp a Re-proof.

Now to this, Gentlemen, pray accept a short Answer; and I'll dismiss this long Story; and leave you all to the Issue of your

own Doings, and to an old *English* Proverb, *Viz. To lie down in the Bed as you have made it.*

Have you chosen an honest a *Whiggish* Parliament, a House full of Gentlemen, whose Sense, Parts, Integrity, Estates, and aboves all, whose Principles secure us, and assure us, that our Lives, Liberties, Government and Religion is safe in their Hands? *Happy be the Hour* for ye all, if it be true, and may be that wishes it otherwise die regretting the Disappointment; no Man can rejoice at it more, some more eagerly wish it than I, tho' perhaps some may more easily be persuaded of the Truth of it.

But,

But, Gentlemen, have I had no Cause for my Exclamations? Have I seen no Elections in England, *a-la-mode de Shock-Dog*? Have I seen none of you vote blindfold, and shut your Eyes wilfully? Have I seen no *Whigs* voting for *Tories*, and choosing such Men to trust with their Nation, that upon another Occasion they would not trust with Half-a-Crown? Have I not seen it? — Indeed if I had not, I had less Reason, and You more, to speak what has been spoken; but really, Gentlemen, I have more to say this way, than you imagine. I can assure you, I have not formed one Jest, one Allegory, one remote Simily, but has a Tale at the End of it; all I have said has been said somewhere, either in the Moon, or *somewhere else*; and I have not spoken so much without Book, or without Cause, as you may imagine.

Again, Gentlemen, I have not sat still at the Coffee-House all this Summer, as some of you have done, forming Elections, and telling Noses, and casting up Parties over a Dish of Coffee; but I have been among a great many of your Elections my self: I have been an Eye-Witness to many of the most fullsome and lothsome Stories I have told you, I have seen the Possibility, ay and too much the Practice, of Men's voting implicitly, here for Ale, there for Influence, here again for Parties, and there by Persuasion: And GOD knows, I speak it with Regret for you all, and for our Posterity; it is not an impossible thing to debauch this Nation into a-Choice of Thieves, Knaves, Devils, Shock-Dogs, or any thing comparatively speaking, by the Power of various Intoxications.

Now, Gentlemen, having seen so much, and heard so much of your Follies, and knowing so much of the Consequences of this miserable Temper of our People, I think my self justified before GOD and Man to tell you, That so far as these Practices are allow'd among you, so far you are ruining your Country, pulling down your Queen, & selling your Liberties to French and Jacobite Tyranny; for by the Way I esteem it all one: And far be it from me to fear the Resentment of any Power, be it

never so great, in a Truth so plain and significant as this. I tell you again, *Gentlemen*, *Freeholders*, if you have chosen up *High-Flyers*, and *Tories*, Abjuration taking *Jacobites*, such as I have been describing, you have sold your Nation, your Birth-right, your Children, to a Pack of Thieves, and sacrific'd the Liberty and Religion of Britain to your sordid, debauch'd Luxury and Covetousness.

Never comfort yourselves with saying it is not done, 'tis no Thanks to those whose Hands have been up-lifted to bring it to pass, and who have griped the Mammon of that Unrighteousness, or swallow'd the luscious Draught of a *Tory* Bribe; 'tis for opening the Eyes of the ignorant Criminal in this Affair that I write, and shall I tell you, these Criminals are but too many.

I have thought two or three times to expose some of our own Friends in this Case, who have not only so far abandoned their Cause and their Friends, as to vote for these wretched People, but who in a Body have set up *Tories* against *Whigs*, merely to support the Reputation of their Party: But as these are a new, and I doubt too fatal a Sort of People, who we have but lately found acting this Part upon the Stage; I am not over-hasty to censure them, but shall reserve that Case to be spoken to more at large.

But we are sure of a *Whig* Parliament, you say, *I wish you be John, says the Proverb*; and yet my Reproofs or my Reproaches are not the less just: For give me leave to tell you, Gentlemen, the utmost Endeavours have been used to make it otherwise, and this I must own, if you have a *Whig* Parliament now, I think, you may look upon that Interest as rivetted for ever; for never were stronger Struggles, never more Masters of Enemies, or more Arts made use of to debauch Friends, and perhaps the last never with more Success, to the Shame of their Judgment be it spoken.

How impossible is it for Human Art to prevent the Attacks made upon the Virtue of the poor People in this Nation! how ineffectual are all the Arts of Parliament against Bribery and ill Practices, while Men are

are busie debauching the poor, ignorant, impos'd-upon People, not near the Election only, or before the Test of the Writs, but really from the very End of one Election to the Beginning of another ! The whole three Year is a Scheme of Bribery, Cant, Wheedle, Trick and Sham, and the forming and keeping up of Parties, is the Business of the respective Parties from one Election to another.

The Triennial Bill is a very good thing, and a Complication of Advantages are lodg'd in the Bowels of it ; but I cannot but remark, that it has this fatal Consequence in it, which all *England* feels, and *Scotland*, I doubt, will feel it ; *Viz.* That the Certainty of a new Election in three Years is an unhappy Occasion of keeping alive the Divisions and Party-Strife among the People, which would otherwise have dy'd of Course, — Had the Elections to come been remote and uncertain, the Interest of this or that Person had been equally uncertain, and Men had not apply'd themselves so much to the cultivating their Interest, and rivetting themselves in the Opinion, either of People or of Parties.

I do not speak this to suggest the Alteration, and I acknowledge, the Conveniences of that Law are in their Kind very many, and very great ; but this at the same time is, the Disaster attends us with it, that this Honey has its Poison with it, this beautiful Rose has its Prickle. This Certainty of the Return of an Election occasions a constant keeping alive innumerable Factions, forming Parties, keeping up Differences, keeping on Foot Prejudices and Parties, even from Election to Election ; insomuch that it is a most just Observation at this time, that those Towns, who choose no Parliament Men, live in much more Peace and good Neighbourhood, than others that choose ; since in the latter the contending Parties are ever stragling, they contend on every Occasion, choosing their Parish-Officers, their Recorders, their Magistrates, and every thing that has the least Face of publick Concern ; all runs by Parties, all eye the grand Election, are sound upon that Interest, and have that Occasion in View.

This is a sad Truth, and I could appeal for its Confirmation to a great many Corporations in this Kingdom, and could illustrate it with melancholy Examples ; but I forbear, because as before, the other Privileges of that Bill go a great way to answer all the Inconveniences, and are what I would never have parted with.

Well, but we have gotten a *Whig* Parliament you say, *I do not say I say so, tho' I hope it* ; but shall I say a Word or two on that Head. First then, the *Tory* Party are horridly disappointed, the *Jacobites* are defeated, and all their Party baulked ; for nothing can be more certain, than they think they are of a most Glorious *Parliamentary Campaign* this next Year, and of carrying all before them, as their Grand Ally did the last Year, I mean the *French*.

But shall I tell you one thing, *by the way*, by our Foreign Accounts, we are in hopes this Cause may be decided in the Field ; for I must own, the *Jacobite* Cause is tried there as much as any where, and let but any Body tell me, if this is not a Test of it, that this reviv'n ; of the *Jacobite* Cause in *England* has kept Time exactly with the reviving of the *French* Affairs abroad ; they rise together and they sink together, and I doubt not but they will at last fall together. We have nothing therefore to do but to conquer, a Blow to the *French* is a Scab to the *Tory* Interest in *Britain* ; and this might convince the most obstinate Creature in the Nation, if he would but consider of it, and show him on whose side he is fighting, when he is espousing the *High-Flying* Party ; whose Work he is doing, and how palpably he is carrying on the Interest of Popery, *French* Government, and consequently his Country's Ruin.

A Victory in *Flanders* would crush the whole Party, make them turn from *High-Flyers* to Suckers, make them bang their Ears and their Heads like a defeated Party ; nay, it would make Converts, for it is with them as it is with the Generality of Men, who have no Principles to act them, *Viz.* That when their Cause goes down, they let it go and leave it.

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I confess, I cannot speak of a Battle in *Flanders* without a very great Concern; I confess, I am very loth to mention the need we have to look up to him, that gives Victory in general, because I know, you do not love to think yourselves beholding to any thing but the Bravery of our Troops, the Goodness of our Horse, the Gallantry of our Men; and if we can but bring the *French* to fight, you are so sure of the Victory, that the Language of a Soldier now is in short, *GOD send us but a Battle, we'll give ourselves the Victory.* But when I weigh a little the Possibility of a Misfortune, tho' I have no formidable Apprehensions of it, neither as to its Danger, but even the Possibility of it, and joyn that Possibility to the Consequences, both here as well as abroad; When I say, I consider what an insulting desperate Party we have at home, ready to embrace any Opportunity, and ready to joyn with any Kind of Enemies, to ruin and destroy the Peace of this Kingdom; I cannot but think of a Battle with Concern.

As for those that are so secure of Victory, as to think it cannot fail us, that think themselves neither beholden to GOD nor Man for it, but that it is as natural a Consequence to a Battle, as Heat is to Fire; they may go back to the Affair of *Thoulon* to mend their rash Conclusions. For my part I have hopes enough of Victory to wish an Engagement, and, I believe, to venture all I had on the Stakes, if I were on the Spot; but I cannot tie it down to Battle as a Consequence to a Cause, and make it so certain, that neither Possibility or Providence can make it otherwise.

But let that alone to the Event, this I am sure will be the Consequence of a Victory, that it will crush, discourage and dishearten this *Higb-Flying* Party we are speaking of; for it is apparent, their Cause at home and the *French* Interest abroad is the same thing, and those that blindly follow them would do well, sedately to consider but that one thing, and make their Judgment by it—But I shall say more to this hereafter.

For the Payment of King *William*, King *James*, and King *Charles's* Debts.

Those who have Met, do Resolve to Proceed by the Method Proposed, which they hope cannot fail of Success, if not baffled by delay of the Persons concern'd, to unite their Interest. They that do not meet and Encourage the Proceedings, may never expect another such Opportunity.

There is much work to do before the sitting of the Parliament, and none can be in disburse above one Shilling on a hundred Pounds to try the Issue.

They Intend to meet next Friday, and the Tuesday after in Downing Street, as formerly, and after Midsummer Day at the House on the Right hand going up to the Parliament House in Old Pallace Yard, Westminster, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Frydays in the Afternoons.



BARTLETT's Inventions for the Cure of Ruptures, which have gain'd So Universal Esteem, are now, yet farther Improv'd to so great a Nicety, that one of his Steel Spring Trusses of the largest Size, seldom Exceeds 4 ounces in Weight, and one of the smallest rarely exceeds a quarter of an Ounce, and are so well adapted to the shapes of human Bodies, that they are extraordinary easy even to Infants of a Day Old, and Intirely keep up the Ruptures of what Bigness soever. Also divers Instruments to help the Weak and Crooked. By P. Bartlett at the Golden Ball by the Ship Tavern in Prescot Street in Goodmans Fields, London.

NOTE, He forges and finishes his Trusses himself, by which means he daily Improves his Inventions.